

damage, but from these observations it is suggested that all tissues of mesenchymal origin, especially the vascular mesenchyme, are liable to be involved, and no matter where the rheumatic lesion occurs, and no matter what ætiological agent is responsible for its production, the nature of the tissue damage is fundamentally the same, the process being constant in its histological appearance, showing modification in different sites, dictated by the essential structure of the tissue involved.

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REVIEWS

A HANDBOOK ON DISEASES OF CHILDREN. By Bruce Williamson, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.

BRUCE WILLIAMSON'S 'Children' has reached a fourth edition. It has already achieved an enviable niche in pædiatric literature, and the new edition will assuredly deepen the niche.

The subject matter is most conveniently arranged. Little space is wasted on academic speculation or 'collector's' diseases. The author's concise and readable style is refreshing in these days of prosy textbooks. The chapters on disorders of the heart and circulation are particularly good; infant welfare and 'artificial feeding' are treasure-trove to the harassed student. The production is fully pre-war standard, and the plates and diagrams are admirably selected and arranged. This little book might have been titled 'Pædiatics without Tears.'

T. H. C.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF INHALATION ANÆSTHESIA, 1846-1900.

THE Wellcome Historical Medical Museum has arranged to publish, in conjunction with the Oxford University Press, an important work on "The Development of Inhalation Anæsthesia from 1846 to 1900," by Dr. Barbara M. Duncum, of the Nuffield Department of Anæsthetics, University of Oxford, and formerly on the staff of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.

The work is to be the first of the Museum's post-war series of Research Studies in the History of Medicine. It deals exhaustively with the history of inhalation anæsthesia in England, the United States of America, and on the European continent, from the scientific and clinical points of view, and shows, as well, the influence of general current events upon this branch of surgery. Most important features of the work are its investigation of the various changes of opinion in regard to the physiological action of anæsthetics, the evolution and practical application of inhalers and other apparatus, and the introduction and adoption of anæsthetic drugs, during the period under review. This work, which is illustrated by over 160 photographs and drawings, should prove of especial interest to the student of medical history, and, since it shows how modern anæsthetic methods have grown from nineteenth-century beginnings, should be of great practical value to anæsthetists and research workers in anæsthetics.